

people who have said that this package that we have put forward is nothing but a sop for the rich. But if we look at the facts, I am very happy to say that many Democrats in this House know full well that this tax package is, in fact, very, very helpful to middle and lower income wage earners in this country.

There are a few points that Mr. Gergen makes in this piece which I would like to share with my colleagues. He says, the central liberal charge is that the bills adopted by the GOP-led Senate and House would give as much tax relief to the top 1 percent as to the bottom 60 percent combined. Sounds horrific, doesn't it? What they ignore, as Jim Glassman of U.S. News & World Report noted, is the top 1 percent also pay more in taxes than the bottom 60 percent combined, a lot more. IRS records show that the top 1 percent shoulder 29 percent of the Nation's total tax bill, while the bottom 60 percent pay some 9 percent.

Recognize that we singled out the top 1 percent for tax hikes in that 1993 bill that the President moved through. It also would not be terribly unfair to include them in at least a modicum of tax relief today.

He goes on to talk about this issue of funny money, which my friend from Florida, [Mr. STEARNS] mentioned earlier, this imputed income whereby if someone paid off their mortgage, they in fact have what would be the rental income included as income to them, and it is actually obviously money they would never see.

Mr. Gergen writes that stripping away the funny money, the Census Bureau shows that the top 20 percent really starts with households earning \$65,124 a year. That means that the criticism that has come from the left, Madam Speaker, is they are pretending that families that make \$65,124 are categorized as rich.

Then a very important item that needs to be mentioned, one that I have been working on since the opening day of this Congress and, frankly, for a number of years, is this issue of capital gains.

When I mention how Democrats have joined with me in cosponsoring very important legislation, H.R. 14, to bring about an across-the-board reduction in capital gains, it is because they know that the average family of four would see an increase of \$1,500 per year over a 7-year period in their take-home pay.

Mr. Gergen says another shell game on the left involves proposed reductions in capital gains and estate taxes. Liberals say it is selfish for people who invest in stocks or save for their children to receive tax relief. But they ignore the fact that these funds have already been taxed, when they were first earned. To tax earnings a second time at rates as high as 55 percent, which is the case with inheritance taxes, borders on confiscation.

Now, Madam Speaker, we know full well that we are in this together, and I

think Gergen's closing paragraph is a very telling one.

This country does face serious challenges in addressing the growing income gap between those who are affluent and everyone else. Clearly, we should be working harder to ensure that children of poor and middle-class families have an equal chance at the starting line of life. Just as clearly, those who have the most should give the most back. But the way the left is trying to twist this tax debate, bullying successful Americans as a way to score political points trivializes the real issues and divides us as a people. We don't need another bloody shirt.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to read this editorial, and I will send it around to everyone.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEDAL OF HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCHALE] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHALE. Madam Speaker, for the last 2 nights I have joined millions of Americans in watching the Rough Riders on Turner Broadcasting. When Teddy Roosevelt served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he argued vigorously that the United States should intervene in Cuba and be prepared for possible war with Spain. In what was for Teddy Roosevelt characteristic language, he said, "I had deeply felt it was our duty to free Cuba, and I publicly expressed this feeling; and when a man takes such a position, he ought to be willing to make his words good by his deeds. He should pay with his body."

So, in that spirit, Teddy Roosevelt resigned his office and offered to serve as a lieutenant colonel with the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, what history now calls the Rough Riders.

On July 1, 1898, in what Roosevelt would call for the rest of his life his crowded hour, he placed his body on the line. He backed up his words with his courage. Leading two vicious bloody assaults on Kettle Hill and the San Juan Heights, Teddy Roosevelt made history and led his men with extraordinary valor.

The fighting was brutal. Four hundred ninety Rough Riders went into battle that day; 89 were killed or wounded, the heaviest loss suffered by any regiment in the cavalry division.

From the beginning to the very end, Theodore Roosevelt was at the forefront of battle, leading by example, encouraging his men, oblivious to danger, firing his revolver at point-blank range and killing the enemy with his own hand, this future president of the United States displayed extraordinary valor under the most difficult of combat conditions.

Gen. Leonard Wood, Roosevelt's commanding officer, recommended Roosevelt for the Medal of Honor with the following citation: Colonel Roosevelt led a very desperate and extremely gallant charge on San Juan Hill, thereby

setting a splendid example to the troops and encouraging them to pass over the open country. In leading this charge, he started off first. He then returned and gathered a few men and led them in the charge, an extremely gallant one, and the example set a most inspiring one to the troops in that part of the line.

Madam Speaker, by universal consensus among the officers and men who witnessed Roosevelt's bravery, he had earned our Nation's highest military decoration. But he never received it.

During the weeks after the battle for San Juan Heights, Roosevelt watched with mounting frustration as his men suffered and died from tropical disease. Angered by Roosevelt's public statements that the Rough Riders should be brought home as quickly as possible, Secretary of War Alger refused to sign Roosevelt's Medal of Honor citation.

As a result, Col. Theodore Roosevelt was denied the recognition he had earned in battle. Edith Roosevelt, after Teddy's death, said that the failure to receive the Medal of Honor was one of the most bitter disappointments of his life.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to tell you that it is not too late to correct that injustice. Later this week I will be introducing legislation with my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM], authorizing the Medal of Honor for Col. Theodore Roosevelt, First United States Volunteer Cavalry, for extraordinary bravery under enemy fire. Members wishing to be original cosponsors should contact my office.

A century of political retry bugs and injustice can now be corrected by the posthumous recognition of Teddy Roosevelt's courage.

AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM: A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND INSPIRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, let me begin by saying that I would like to be a cosponsor of the legislation being submitted by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCHALE], and I very much endorse his very eloquent comments. I know Teddy Roosevelt has been an inspiration for me, not so much in my political career, but as well as a young man growing up and seeing how somebody like him could overcome adversity and take the risks that he did. So I congratulate the gentleman and the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM], on your endeavor, and I would like to support you in that.

Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to talk about our Nation's space program. As all Americans know, our Nation's success in the arena of space has

been a source of great pride and inspiration for many Americans, particularly our Nation's youth. Of course, it all got started by the people who were willing to take risks.

There is probably nobody who has taken more of a risk than John Kennedy when he made the commitment to go to the Moon, and he said we go to the Moon not because it is easy, but because it is hard. The way to the Moon was paved by those many men and women who worked on the programs Mercury and Gemini, and then ultimately the successful Apollo program.

Of course, following that we had the tremendous success of our shuttle program. The shuttle has proven its durability and its tremendous versatility, a vehicle that can go up and come back, a vehicle that can go up, retrieve satellites, bring them back to Earth and then launch them again.

Of course, we recently all across the world were spellbound by the tremendous success of the unmanned program to Mars, the Mars Pathfinder, and the rover Sojourner and how that fascinated not only all Americans, but particularly our Nation's youth.

Now we are getting very close to the point where we will be launching and assembling our Nation's space station, a tremendous international cooperative event involving people not only here in the United States, but as well people in Europe and in Japan.

I have with me on my left a diagram of what the orbiting space station would look like. In this particular diagram, you can see the shuttle in the background there docked to the space station, and it is delivering another element.

This will be hopefully becoming a reality in the next 12 to 18 months. We have some ongoing serious problems that we need to work through with the Russians and their failure to fund their components of the space station, but if we are really going to have an ongoing, growing space program, one of the things we need to overcome is the problem of the high cost of getting payloads into orbit.

One of the ways we are hoping to do that is with this vehicle shown here in this poster, the X-33, the next reusable launch vehicle. This a vehicle that is being developed right now by Lockheed-Martin out in California, and this vehicle hopefully will dramatically reduce the cost of getting payloads into orbit.

The goal or desire is to reduce the cost by a factor of 10, because that is one of the most expensive things about us going into space, is the actual cost of getting a pound from the surface up into orbit. This vehicle will be very similar to the shuttle, in that it will go up and come back and go up and come back, but will be using new modern technology that we all hope, all of us here in the House of Representatives, but as well all of those men and women that work in our space program at places like Kennedy Space Center and

Johnson Space Center, at the Jet Propulsion Center in Pasadena, CA, we hope it will dramatically lower the cost so we can do more. What do we want to do? What are our hopes and dreams in terms of the future of going up into space, and what would we like to be able to accomplish?

Well, this next poster I have here shows something that I think has some real potential. It shows men and women working on the surface of the moon and doing what? Well, one of the proposals that has been put forward is that we may be able to collect solar energy on the Moon and actually send it by microwave beams. The technology on this has all been worked out. It is not new technology. Send it to the Earth in a way that we could get electricity so we would not have to use nuclear powerplants and use fossil fuels. You are talking about a completely clean way to generate abundant forms of electrical power. If we can develop cheaper, more inexpensive ways to get payloads into orbit, it may be possible for us to reduce the cost of electricity to as little as 3 cents per kilowatt.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all our colleagues to support the Nation's space program and the tremendous promise that it holds.

SUPPORT CARL D. PERKINS VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997 the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES], is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, today we will continue consideration of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education amendments. I rise this afternoon to support vocational education because of its importance to this country and to my district of El Paso, TX. Carl Perkins provides Federal funding to improve the quality of vocational education and to provide access to quality vocational education to special populations which include disadvantaged students.

My home in El Paso is one of the poorest districts in this country. Many students there cannot afford to attend college. Vocational education, especially as funded through Carl Perkins, provides these students the skills that they need to move immediately into higher paying jobs, and upon graduation for some it provides the skills developed that will set them for a career path in life. For others, vocational education provides job opportunities which will allow individuals to work and to save for college in their future.

Schools in my district are using this funding to teach our kids in innovative ways and to prepare them for the working world or to continue their education and college if they so choose.

I was very disappointed to learn that the bill excludes a requirement to spend vocational education funds for

programs for single parents and pregnant women. The Ysleta School System in my district has developed a very important program which could make use of such funds.

This program at Ysleta Academy of Science and Technology helps teenage parents through its Teen Parenting Academy and the Teen Parenting Program, which takes pregnant students out of the regular classroom and provides them academic and vocational education.

The Teen Parenting Academy uses State funds for academics and Carl Perkins funds for vocational education. Within 6 weeks of the child's birth, other schools would send the student back to regular classes. This program, however, allows students to complete their academic career at the Teen Parenting Academy.

Normally teenage parents, male and female, have a very high dropout rate, especially soon after their babies are born. In this program, however, students stay in school, complete their academic education and learn a vocation. The dropout rate for single parents in the Teen Parenting Academy is well below the national and local dropout average.

Continued vocational education funding for single pregnant women and single parents would help this school continue to provide these kids opportunities that they might otherwise miss, and it helps to keep these kids from falling into the vicious cycle of poverty.

The support a bipartisan amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK], the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SANCHEZ], and others, which will restore this requirement.

I believe that quality education is the key to helping children and adults in communities like mine to raise their standard of living. We must, therefore, continue to provide Federal support for important educational programs like Carl D. Perkins. The way to make this country a better, more productive society is to increase the educational level of all its residents.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY SALVATORI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, one of the great opportunities of this job of being a Member of Congress is to officially bid farewell to great people. One such great American recently passed away. He was a teacher, a patriot, and a friend. His name was Henry Salvatori.

Many Americans have no idea who Henry Salvatori was, but to many of us who are politically active and followed behind the scenes what has happened in